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OIT-1010-85  
30 December 1985

85-4175/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM: William F. Donnelly   
Director of Information Technology

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SUBJECT: DI Workstation

REFERENCE: DDI Memorandum 06006-85, dtd 6Dec85, Same Subject

*Wick*

1. As I indicated to you in our recent conversation, my reaction to reference is mixed. I am pleased to see what appears to be a serious step toward dealing with the "DI Workstation" issue. On the other hand, the proposed strategy to do a traditional requirements study in 1986 seems not to take into consideration what has been happening in the Agency and in the market place. This disappoints me.

2. Recently a group of us visited the headquarters of IBM/Entry Systems Division in Florida. This Division did more than four billion dollars in business this past year. While there we were told that the Chief, IBM/ESD had observed that "the PC is a six-month business". This was interpreted to mean that developments in the PC arena are moving so fast that the utility of any long planning process in this field is suspect.

3. As one who has been on the Information Systems Board since its inception in July 1983 listening to the DI and others describe their evolving workstation requirements, I agree with the Chief, IBM/ESD. Thus, the strategy described in reference to begin again to establish DI workstation requirements, in light of paragraph 2 above and our experience in the ISB, seems archaic. The described process is too slow! Nowhere in the paper is a time span stated. Further, recognizing that words mean different things to different people, I view the idea of "developing" a new DI workstation as a concept of the past.

4. As George Allen said, "The future is now." The DI's requirements are dynamic and probably different from office to office! The process to select a DI workstation should not view the DI as a space vehicle which once it is launched can't be returned. What we in OIT are about is to get the Agency positioned with selected basic standards in what we believe is the main stream of what is taking place in the communications, ADP and PC worlds, so that all of our customers, normal and high-end, can quickly, when appropriate, take advantage of the dozens of new hardware and software developments which are announced in every six month period.

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5. In my eyes, reference is not visionary but instead a repeat of what has been traditionally done in the past. OIT seeks a new solution to the problem and a new culture in which we reach that solution. (For example, prototyping or testbeds in a dynamic, fast moving environment would seem to recognize the world in which we work rather than conducting a requirements study.) In the process we must try to leverage IBM and other organizations so that CIA, and the DI in particular, is on the cutting edge of technology and has the competitive edge in the intelligence business.

6. As for [redacted] being the project officer for the DI workstation, I am enclosing a copy of his most recent PAR so that you can see what I think of him. I spoke to Bill again on 20 December about his possible assignment to the DI project. He said that he had spoken to you four or five weeks ago about the time he had been shifted out of his previous job and was feeling down. He said that he had told you that he would come to work for the DI. However, now he says that he is enjoying the freedom of his new assignment, enjoying the contributions he has recently been able to make to NPIC and OD&E. He observed that the project in the DI appears too narrow for him and perhaps more suited for a GS-14. As we have discussed, I share this view.

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[redacted]  
William F. Donnelly [redacted]

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Attachments:  
As stated

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D/OIT:WFDonnelly:mjl [redacted] (30DEC85)

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